

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to make editorial changes therein. Two values in the table on page 37 have been slightly adjusted to more accurately reflect the result of the formula on page 34, and explicitly shown as percentages (which they were, as would be appreciated by those of skill in the art since percentages are normally used). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 20, 34, and 36-38 were rejected under §112, first paragraph, and have been amended. The references to "relative wet-to-dry strength" have been deleted or changed to "relative wet strength" to match the labels in the Table on page 37. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

New claims 40-43 have been added. These claims define a ratio of the wet tensile strength in cross direction (N/50mm) to the basis weight (g/m^2). The values are derived from the table on page 37. For example, a wet tensile strength of 6.5 N/50mm divided by a basis weight of 23.95 g/m^2 yields (when the 50mm is converted to meters by multiplying by 20) a ratio of 5.4 Nm/g. This is the comparative example, over which the present invention is an improvement, and thus the present invention provides a result larger than this. The other values were similarly obtained. These claims are allowable because the art

does not disclose or suggest that such values are achievable or how they could be achieved.

Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-13, 15-21, 23-25, 27-30, and 32-39 were rejected as unpatentable over WALLENIOUS et al. 6,068,734 in view of ESPY 5,316,623 and VINSON et al. 5,958,185 and VINSON et al. 5,611,890. The claims have been amended and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The amended claims provide, among other features, that the fibres, polymers, and softener are provided so that the web has, for a basis weight of 23.95 g/m², a wet tensile strength in cross direction of more than 6.5 N/50 mm. Support for this amendment is found in the table on page 37. As will be appreciated, these values are derived from the examples in which the strength of the present invention is greater than the strength of the comparative example.

These values are not taught by the references and would not be obvious to one of skill in the art. The artisan would not combine these components so as to achieve these results. There is no suggestion in the references to provide the claimed wet tensile strength for the given basis weight, nor is there a suggestion in the art how this could be achieved. For example, note that by multiplying the wet tensile strength in cross direction of more than 6.5 N/50 mm by 20, one arrives at a value of 130 N/m for a basis weight of 23.95 g/m², which is far above the values recited in the right-hand column of Table 2 of

WALLENIOUS et al. The argument that one of skill in the art would arrive at the wet tensile strength in cross direction as high as presently claimed by extrapolating the values in WALLENIOUS et al. to the higher basis weights disclosed in VINSON et al. '185 is no longer viable because the basis weight at which this strength is determined has been set in the amended claims. The prior art did not conceive that these components could be combined to produce such results, nor does the art describe how the claimed strength could be achieved at the given basis weight. The results are not inherent because there is no teaching of how to combine these components to achieve the claimed strength at the given basis weight.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Please charge the fee of \$200 for four extra dependent claims added herewith to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

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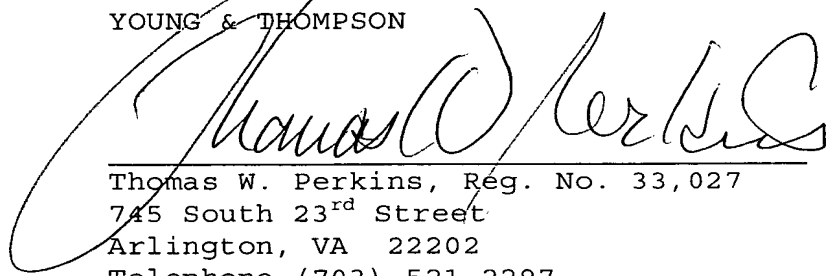
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. Perkins". The signature is written over a horizontal line that separates it from the printed contact information below.

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